

# HEALTH IN THE WATERSHED ATLAS ENGAGEMENT

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT





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## Land Acknowledgment

The Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds have been the home, meeting ground and travelling route for many Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. We gratefully acknowledge the traditional territory and ongoing presence of Indigenous Peoples and Nations within these watersheds. Their experiences, teachings, knowledge and wisdom inform and enrich our collective efforts to care for the land and water of this region. These watersheds are located in Treaty 6 and 7 territory, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Districts 2, 3, 8, 11, and 12. Fulfilling the spirit and intent of these treaties is an ongoing process, and the Battle River Watershed Alliance is committed to building strong and respectful relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of this land, with all living beings, and with the land and water on which we all depend.

# Executive Summary

The Battle River Watershed Association (BRWA) Health in the Watershed Atlas engagement process is now complete. The following What We Heard Report (WWH) highlights watershed organizations', Indigenous groups', governments', and interested community members' reflections on "Taking Notice to Take Action: A Health in the Watershed Atlas of the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds." The Atlas is the latest BRWA state of the watershed report. Using a variety of engagement approaches, feedback was obtained on the contents of the Atlas, including the following categories: personal wellbeing, people and community, weather and climate, water, ecosystems and biodiversity, and economy and land management.

Engagement was designed to answer the overarching challenge question:

*How does the Health in the Watershed Atlas reflect and inform our collective understanding of ecological, community, and public health in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds, and what actions can be taken to support healthy people, communities, and watersheds going forward?*

Atlas feedback will inform future watershed reporting, and actions that the BRWA and its partners can take to further improve health in the Sounding Creek and Battle River watersheds.

## Recommendations from Engagement

The following are the top 12 recommendations from the engagement process that should be considered in future BRWA reporting and initiatives:

### Short-term, Ongoing

#### Continue relationship building and co-leadership discussions with Indigenous governments, and enhance capacity for indigenous watershed management and monitoring

Throughout engagement, Indigenous relationship building and co-leadership for environmental, economic, and public health in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds was supported as a need for responsible watershed management. Continued efforts should be made to build stronger relationships and co-leadership opportunities with the Maskwacis Cree Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Other Indigenous groups are welcomed. The next step in the co-leadership process should include the establishment of shared priorities between these groups and BRWA for steps forward.

#### Continue relationship building and knowledge sharing events with the watershed community

Many summit and survey participants identified the desire to continue sharing information through gathering, as done for the Health in the Watershed Summit. The BRWA can continue to raise the awareness and value of the Health in the Watershed Atlas by presenting at community events and celebrations. Further, a celebratory method fosters unity and collective achievement and will highlight BRWA mandate for education and awareness.

#### Build relationships with economic development and health representatives to co-create a clear and more directed narrative for interconnected elements

Economic and health indicators, such as labour force, GDP and income, were among the least likely for survey respondents to use from the Atlas. Health in the Watershed Summit participants saw the connections between these indicators, but did not see immediate value in their collection and reporting on their own. To continue to improve and identify connections between these elements, BRWA should establish a working relationship with local economic development and health representatives, and consider new approaches to reporting in future watershed health reports.

Engagement and What We Heard reporting led by Intelligent Futures and Glinis Buffalo Consulting in consultation with the BRWA Land and Water Committee.



### Create new communications approaches to help people disseminate the information in the Atlas

Less than half of survey respondents reported having used the Atlas. The Atlas was reported as too large and intimidating for many members of the general public to use. To utilize the rich information in the Atlas, BRWA should focus efforts in creating communications materials and short articles. This could be done through highlights in monthly newsletters, the creation of short articles on specific topics such as mental health, climate resilience and community planning, or through including Atlas statistics in other community events or promotions.

### Medium-Term, Ongoing

#### Pursue collective action through youth engagement and education

The role of engaging and educating youth was stressed in the Summit. Ensuring that students continue to be engaged both in classrooms and on the land is a value shared by many in the watershed. If there is an opportunity to pursue collective action, youth education and outreach could be a central coordinating component across interest holders due to its local support.

#### Connect watershed reporting to emergency preparedness

Participants discussed the need for robust plans during extreme weather events, emphasizing community resilience. With many conversations of the ongoing drought in Central Alberta, emergency preparedness is top of mind for many, and a clear connector for watershed reporting. Future watershed reporting and articles describing the Atlas should consider using resilience as a central principal or theme.

### Long-Term, Next State of the Watershed Report

#### Provide options for watershed health reporting

Survey participants supported the creation and distribution of a variety of online materials to share data. In future reporting, BRWA should consider creating a variety of long- and short-form deliverables, as well as online data to share with the greater watershed community.

#### Connect data reporting to action

Summit participants suggested the Atlas would be more impactful if the data was paired with corresponding actions for watershed interest holders. Steps should be taken to include potential actions or recommendations within future watershed reporting to ensure the information is used productively by readers. One approach to this could include involving interest holders in the development process, to share relationships and ideas in the co-creation process.

#### Involve other interest holders in the creation process

The engagement for the Health in the Watershed Atlas happened after the development and release of the Atlas. Summit participants identified that future reporting should include interest holders upfront in the process to connect the data with local knowledge and action-implementing organizations.

#### Ensure reported data is up to date

Some summit participants commented on the outdated nature of some Atlas data. It is important to build processes for timely access to data from Government of Alberta and other partners. Enhanced monitoring is needed to address data gaps, including community-based monitoring. Combining storytelling and knowledge keeping with relevant and significant data contributes to a broader context for health in the watershed. Also, combining traditional knowledge and western knowledge in data and engagement methodologies will elevate the impact of the Atlas. Continue to develop ways for people to contribute and use the data, e.g. data analysis training.

#### Consider equity intersections in future data reporting

The Atlas reported on many human health and demographic indicators across the watershed. Summit participants were interested to learn more and share ideas about the intersectional components to watershed dynamics, including: gender dynamics, age, and accessibility. Future reporting and engagement could consider cross referencing their analysis on equitable access, and proposing action to support these intersections.

#### Continue to link community development to wellbeing and mental health

Engagement participants identified wellbeing as being directly tied to the land. For many, the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds are integral and important to their livelihood, culture and traditional way of life. Ensuring the continued preservation and access to these lands should be a central consideration to all actions and reporting produced by the BRWA and its partners.

We heard from

158

community

participants over  
four months of  
engagement.

In addition, through this process, the BRWA also began strengthening watershed relations with Samson Cree Nation, Montana First Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, the Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.



## Introduction

For over 15 years, BRWA has been an advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds. With a rich history of bringing together diverse stakeholders, BRWA has played a crucial role in fostering collaboration on regional priorities to safeguard land and water within these basins.

As a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council, BRWA has taken on the responsibility of:

- » Assessing and reporting on the State of the Watershed,
- » Developing a Watershed Management Plan,
- » Convening and collaborating with partner groups to support the implementation of the Plan, and
- » Offering watershed education and literacy programs to promote stewardship of the land and water.

This multifaceted approach is a key component of Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability, which is instrumental in addressing the complex challenges facing the region and ensuring sustainable practices for the benefit of both ecosystems and communities.

A significant milestone in this ongoing journey is the development of "Taking Notice to Take Action: A Health in the Watershed Atlas of the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds." This state of the watershed report is the result of a collaborative effort between the Prentice Institute for Global

Population and Economy at the University of Lethbridge, BRWA, the University of Alberta: Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, and the ECHO (Environment, Community, Health Observatory) Network, with funding from Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The Atlas stands as a unique and comprehensive resource, featuring maps and information on over 40 indicators related to ecological, community, and economic health in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds. A differentiator for this report is its integration of public and community health indicators, based on a Watershed Health Indicator Framework. This holistic approach emphasizes environmental conditions and personal wellbeing and sheds light on the interconnectedness of ecological, social, and economic considerations of community health, providing a more nuanced understanding of the overall sustainability of the watersheds.

Through the collaborative efforts of the involved organizations, this project exemplifies a commitment to bridging the gap between academic research, community engagement, and practical environmental stewardship. The report serves as a tool for informed decision-making, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering a holistic approach to the well-being of the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.



## Process and Participation

In 2023-2024, an engagement process was implemented to ensure watershed partners could share their insights and feedback on the Health in the Watershed Atlas (the Atlas), as part of the Health in the Watershed Engagement. Throughout the course of the project, we heard from 158 community participants.

### 2.1 How We Engaged

Questions, comments and insights were gathered through the following engagement opportunities:

- » Pre-summit online questionnaire (71 responses)
- » Health in the Watershed Summit (53 participants)
- » Maskwacis Cree Nations (Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation, and Samson Cree Nation) and Otipemisiwak Métis Government shared priorities meetings
- » Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council (MCTC) shared priority meeting on the Health in the Watershed Atlas
- » Post-summit questionnaire (44 responses)
- » Land and Water Committee meetings
- » Presentations to municipal governments
- » Briefing report submitted to Ermineskin Cree Nation.

**Pre-Summit Survey:** A short survey of summit-participating organizations with a mix of logistic and Atlas-based questions. This survey enabled the project team to gain an understanding of watershed partners' awareness of the Health in the Watershed Atlas, and their priorities when considering watershed reporting prior to the summit.

**Watershed Summit:** A full-day workshop in Heisler, Alberta with watershed interest holders to build relationships and awareness, collect feedback and reflections, identify gaps and inform, inspire, and empower watershed partners to take action and incorporate watershed findings into local policies, plans and programs.

**Post-Summit Survey:** An online survey to reach the broader watershed community and gain a broader variety of insights into health through watershed tracking and reporting.

**Watershed Indigenous Relations:** Meetings with Samson Cree Nation, Montana First Nation and Louis Bull Tribe, the Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to discuss shared priorities and address the need for Indigenous and BRWA co-leadership in watershed management and state of the watershed reporting in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.

**BRWA Land and Water Committee:** Meetings with the Committee provided program structure, guidance and feedback. The Committee is comprised of representatives from key stakeholder groups and advises on Watershed Management and State of the Watershed reporting for the BRWA, reporting to the Board of Directors.





# Engagement Outcomes

The following sections, 3.1 to 3.3, share results from the community engagement process, which included meetings with municipal and Indigenous governments, the Summit, and pre- and post-Summit surveys.

Community engagement was intended to reflect the voices of municipal, provincial and Indigenous governments, the public health sector, community support organizations, agricultural research and extension groups, watershed stewardship groups, environmental non-profits, economic development agencies, academia, and industry. More work is needed in order to reach some groups, including the health and community support sectors.

## 3.1 Watershed Indigenous Relations

The ideas and actions for the health of the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds revolved around the following main themes: shared priorities for watershed stewardship and management including co-leadership. These themes are indicative of the necessary effort to maintain consistent relationships with Indigenous groups for BRWA capacity building.

### Shared Priorities - Watershed Stewardship and Management

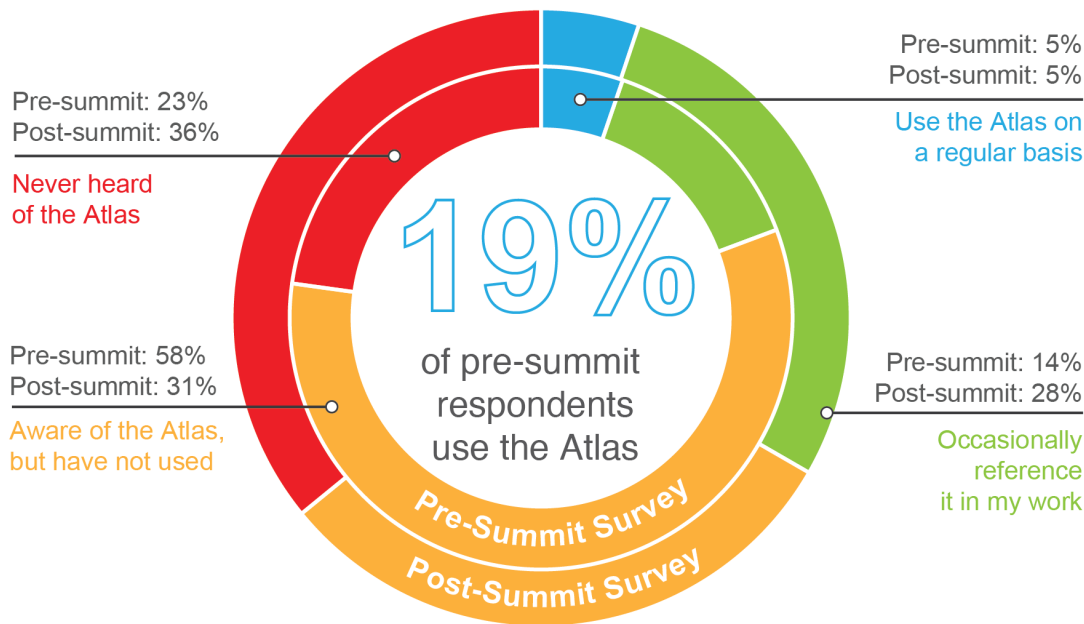
BRWA and the consulting team met with Montana First Nation, Louis Bull Tribe and Samson Cree Nation; Maskwacis Cree Tribal Council and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The following are highlights shared by Indigenous groups:

- » The Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds are integral and important to their livelihood, culture and traditional way of life.
- » The Atlas was unknown prior to the engagement; however, it is a useful tool with timely data.
- » Historically and currently, a healthy watershed supports hunting, fishing, berry and medicine picking practices. Land and water are foundational to Treaty rights, and connections to the land foster environmental stewardship, all of which are important governance and natural laws.
- » The priority is to maintain fish health and fish abundance in the watershed. Samson Cree Nation, Montana First Nation and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government indicated Pigeon Lake was important historically and currently for fishing and the amount of fish has decreased.
- » Samson Cree Nation indicated the community is concerned for the health of the fish and this has impacted how they feel about whether the fish are safe to eat in Pigeon Lake.
- » Recognition of past work for the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association, BRWA, Otipemisiwak Metis Government, and the Maskwacis Nations on a collective effort to communicate non-support of a proposed feedlot in 2022. The outcome was in favour of the collective effort as the feedlot was not approved, upholding the recommendation in the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan that no new or expanded feedlots be allowed in the Pigeon Lake watershed.
- » Climate and land use impacts, such as air and water quality advisories, were raised as community and health concerns.
- » Continued collaboration efforts for safe and healthy rivers and streams in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.
- » Indigenous Rights are a priority over recreational activities such as lake-based tourism.
- » Collectively work towards co-leadership in watershed management and state of the watershed reporting with a range of partners, including the Maskwacis Cree Nations and Otipemisiwak Metis Government.
- » Awareness and understanding of Indigenous Rights and culture is an indicator of positive relationship building.

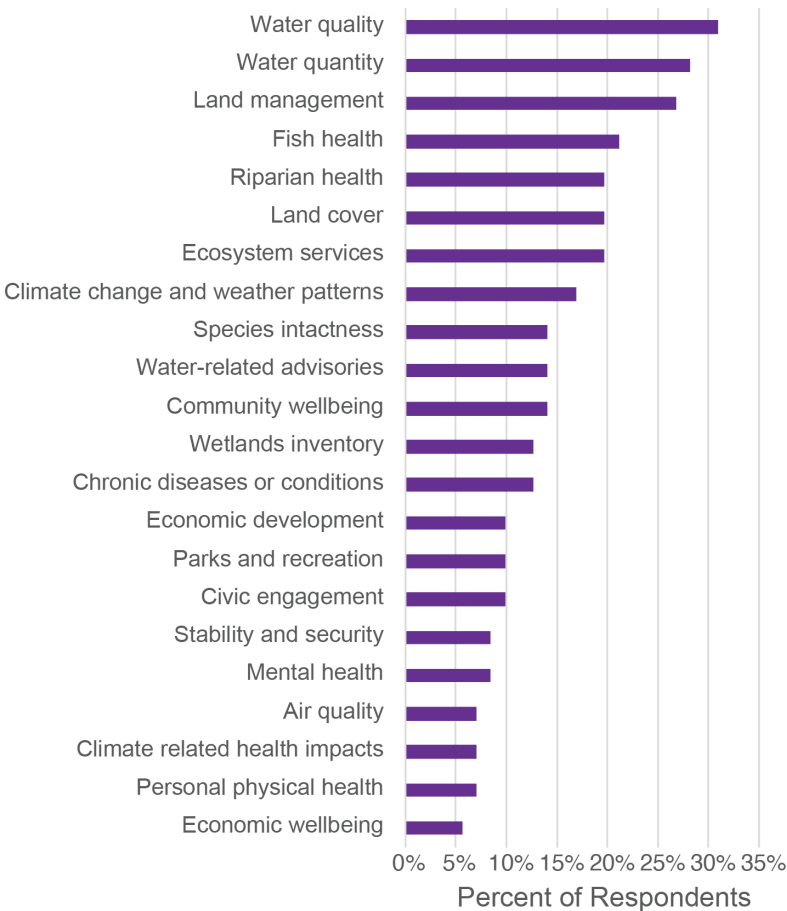


3.2 Pre-summit Survey

What is your experience with the Health in the Watershed Atlas?



Choose three of the following health measures that you are most interested in exploring more at the Health in the Watershed Summit



Is there anything you would like to share with us in advance of the summit?

'Would be great if an elder was invited to say a prayer or a ceremony on the discussion. The element we are talking about has a strong spirit and we ask that prayer or ceremony to start off the day with positive affirmations when talking about water and its spirit.'

'Coming to learn and network: hoping to connect with groups interested in the stewardship of provincial parks in the watershed---especially Big Knife.'

'Just that as you can tell from my ticks, everything related to environmental issues, particularly climate change, is really important to me. I am especially looking for solutions and reasons for hope.'



### 3.3 Health in the Watershed Summit

BRWA hosted the Health in the Watershed Summit in Heisler, AB on February 29th. The day opened with a prayer from Elder Bernice Stoney, a member of Samson Cree Nation at Pigeon Lake. A diverse group of watershed partners attended, including representatives from the Maskwacis Cree Nations, municipal governments, Government of Alberta, watershed stewardship groups, academia, and industry.

During the Summit, participants were broken into groups of their own choosing, and asked to reflect on a series of thematic areas found in the Health in the Watershed Atlas, including: personal wellbeing, people and community, weather and climate, water, ecosystems and biodiversity, and economy and land management. Using these themes as a base, groups reflected on a series of four questions per subject matter area:

- » How does this information resonate with, or reflect, your understanding of health in your community?
- » How does this data connect to the work you do in the watershed?
- » Is there anything missing?
- » Did anything surprise or stand out to you?

The following reports on the primary themes from participant reflections.

### How does this information resonate with, or reflect, your understanding of health in your community?

"When we're out on the land mental health increases"

"Lack of social connection this has been slow to recover."

"Protect sacred locations that are important for ceremony, medication, etc."

"Most communities and municipalities don't have an emergency plan. Work together!"

There is a need for "community-based monitoring in the watershed"

Personal Wellbeing - top five reflection themes from Summit participants	
Connection to Natural Systems and Mental Health	Spending time in natural environments, such as during a canoe trip on the river or in quiet, dark areas with native plants, can significantly improve mental health and happiness. Acknowledging the health benefits of natural food sources and the need for updated data and demographic information to support programs promoting well-being through reconnecting with nature.
Community and Environmental Importance	Recognizing the importance of health and community environment, including monitoring air quality related to activities like oil and gas, and collaborating on addressing health issues.
Community Development and Wellbeing	Understanding what aspects people look for when moving into rural communities, prioritizing personal well-being in communities through accessible activities like walking trails, and fostering community awareness and programming can significantly impact the mental health and overall well-being of residents.
Equity in Access	Considering the affordability and equitable access to good, healthy, and local food, as well as opportunities in nature like skating parties and unstructured play for youth.
Social Connection and Technology Impact	Recognizing the negative impact of increased technology use on nature exposure, social connections, and community well-being, including the divisive nature of online dialogue and the importance of fostering shared pools of information and support in communities.

People and Community - top five reflection themes from Summit participants	
Indigenous Stewardship and Parks	Developing shared environmental leadership with Indigenous groups. Formalizing Indigenous stewardship through Indigenous parks and protected areas to positively impact community well-being and connection to the land.
Protection of Sacred Sites	Prioritizing the protection of sacred locations is essential for preserving cultural heritage, ceremony, and medicinal practices that contribute to community well-being.
Community Engagement and Volunteerism	Building connections through volunteerism and community engagement fosters a sense of belonging, especially for newcomers and urban residents who may not initially feel connected to rural environments.
Access to Supports	Centralizing support can be challenging for rural communities, leading to difficulties in accessing essential services and resources needed for community well-being.
Participation in Municipal Politics	Increasing communication about the importance of participation in municipal politics and elections where significant land and water management decisions are made, can empower communities to have a greater impact on their local environments and well-being.



### Weather and Climate - top five reflection themes from Summit participants

<b>Emergency Preparedness and Support</b>	Developing plans to check on elderly residents and supporting the homeless during extreme weather events or blackouts is crucial for ensuring community resilience and well-being.
<b>Clean Air and Climate Solutions</b>	Addressing the need for clean and cool air in communities involves transitioning to alternative energy sources, incentivizing climate solutions, and adopting better technologies for land management to reduce human-caused climate change impacts.
<b>Climate Adaptation and Innovation</b>	Encourage technological innovations to reduce climate change and help communities build resilience to climate impacts such as droughts, fires, and shifts in crop patterns.
<b>Community Capacity Building</b>	Building community capacity and promoting stewardship of the land are essential for adapting to a changing climate, adjusting traditional practices, and managing tensions related to water access between different interest holders like farmers and fire departments.
<b>Understanding Climate Causes</b>	Recognizing the true causes of climate change beyond just fires, such as suppressed forest fires and poor management practices, is important for developing effective strategies and solutions.

### Water - top five reflection themes from Summit participants

<b>Collaborative Monitoring and Restoration</b>	Collaboration between all levels of government and within local communities is essential for effective monitoring of water quality and habitat restoration efforts, especially in areas impacted by agricultural practices and industrial activities.
<b>Water Quantity and Quality Concerns</b>	Understanding and addressing issues related to water quantity, quality, and allocation are crucial for ensuring sustainable water management practices and mitigating impacts on ecosystems and human health.
<b>Climate Change Implications and Wetland Restoration</b>	Climate change has significant implications for water availability and wetland ecosystems, highlighting the need for protection of existing wetlands, restoration efforts, and adaptive strategies to maintain water quantity and quality.
<b>Industry Impact and Regulatory Challenges</b>	The impact of industrial activities on water resources requires effective regulation and management to prevent degradation of water quality and ensure sustainable use for both industrial and community needs.
<b>Community Engagement and Decision-Making</b>	Involving local communities, Indigenous groups, and interest holders in decision-making processes regarding water management is essential for developing holistic solutions, addressing challenges, and prioritizing actions to protect water resources and ecosystem health.

### Ecosystems and Biodiversity - top five reflection themes from Summit participants

<b>Habitat Restoration and Species Management</b>	Addressing risks to wildlife populations and loss of habitat, including managing the impact of agriculture on wetlands and promoting shelterbelt restoration are crucial for preserving biodiversity and ecosystem health in watersheds.
<b>Balancing Societal and Private Values</b>	Finding a balance between societal and private values is essential for effective conservation efforts and gaining community support for initiatives like wetland restoration, Indigenous parks, and protected areas.
<b>Impact of Land Cover and Climate Resiliency</b>	Understanding the impact of land cover changes on erosion control, weed growth, and the viability of native plant species, conducting climate resiliency and vulnerability assessments, and managing invasive species like carp are important for maintaining ecosystem balance and health.
<b>Fish Health and Water Quality</b>	Monitoring nutrient levels, addressing concerns about fish health downstream of dams and other landform changes, and promoting soil health contribute to overall water quality and fish populations in watersheds.
<b>Education and Collaboration</b>	Using education as a tool to raise awareness about the interconnectedness of ecosystems, nature-based solutions for climate resiliency, and ecosystem services for human health can foster collaboration and effective watershed management among interest holders.

## Economy and Land Management - top five themes

<b>Modern Farming Practices vs. Conservation</b>	There is an incongruence between farming practices focused on efficiency and wealth generation and the natural ways of the land, highlighting the need to prioritize education and innovative land management practices to foster conservation values among agricultural communities.
<b>Economic Viability and Environmental Impact</b>	Economic viability, such as the importance of Fourth Generation agricultural practices (digital innovation in agrifood production), must be balanced with the environmental impacts of land management decisions. There's a need for ecological goods and services education and considering collective benefits over market-based decisions.
<b>Population Pressure and Land Use</b>	The increasing population puts more pressure on land resources, necessitating careful consideration of land use planning, balancing growth with water supply and security, and valuing natural capital through assessments and asset management like tree inventories.
<b>Community Engagement and Natural Infrastructure</b>	Building better communities involves fostering connections with nature, promoting low-impact development, creating wildlife corridors, and valuing natural infrastructure on private land, all while considering Indigenous tourism opportunities and environmental health.
<b>Balancing Economic and Environmental Health</b>	Striking a balance between economic prosperity and environmental health is essential, as too little or too much focus on financial gains can lead to apathy towards environmental issues, highlighting the importance of finding sustainable solutions for watershed health and management.

## Action Activity Themes

Participants were asked what actions they could take as individuals, as organizations, and collectively to improve health in the watershed. The most common action themes included:

### Education and Outreach:

- » Share information with schools and communities about watershed health and history.
- » Encourage involvement in discussions and initiatives.

### Land Stewardship:

- » Be good stewards of the land and advocate for conservation methods.
- » Promote the planting of native species and conservation of water.

### Water Conservation:

- » Use less water at home through reuse methods and rainwater collection.
- » Educate individuals on reducing water use and chemical usage.

### Community Engagement:

- » Attend and promote community events to foster wellbeing.
- » Support local activities and initiatives related to watershed health.

### Youth Involvement:

- » Engage children and schools in land programs and watershed education.
- » Encourage intergenerational activities to instill stewardship values.

### Partnerships and Advocacy:

- » Collaborate with Indigenous communities and organizations.
- » Advocate for policies and initiatives that protect water bodies and wetlands.

### Monitoring and Awareness:

- » Develop metrics to measure watershed health and communicate successes.
- » Increase awareness of environmental factors and their impact on health with timely monitoring.

### Accessible Natural Spaces:

- » Make outdoor activities and parks more accessible to all residents.
- » Add camping spots and hiking trails to encourage community engagement.

### Bylaws and Policies:

- » Implement bylaws and policies for water protection and wetland restoration.
- » Work with government and organizations to enforce environmental regulations.

### Collective Action and Leadership:

- » Encourage collective action and participation in cleanup efforts.
- » Provide education and resources for public involvement in watershed management.

## Example Actions

"Build relationships with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Maskwacis Cree Nations staff, Chief and Council"

"Judge Caring for our Watersheds competition"

"Teach my children about the importance of watershed conservation"

"Plan a canoe trip with people that don't get out in nature such as nurses"

"Reach out to organizations like Scouts, 4-H, Drainage District and volunteer time and action"

"How to help [our community] become an official bird-friendly community"

"Collectively work towards co-governance and co-leadership of watershed management with a range of Partners including municipal, Metis Nation, Maskwacis Cree Nation stewardship groups"

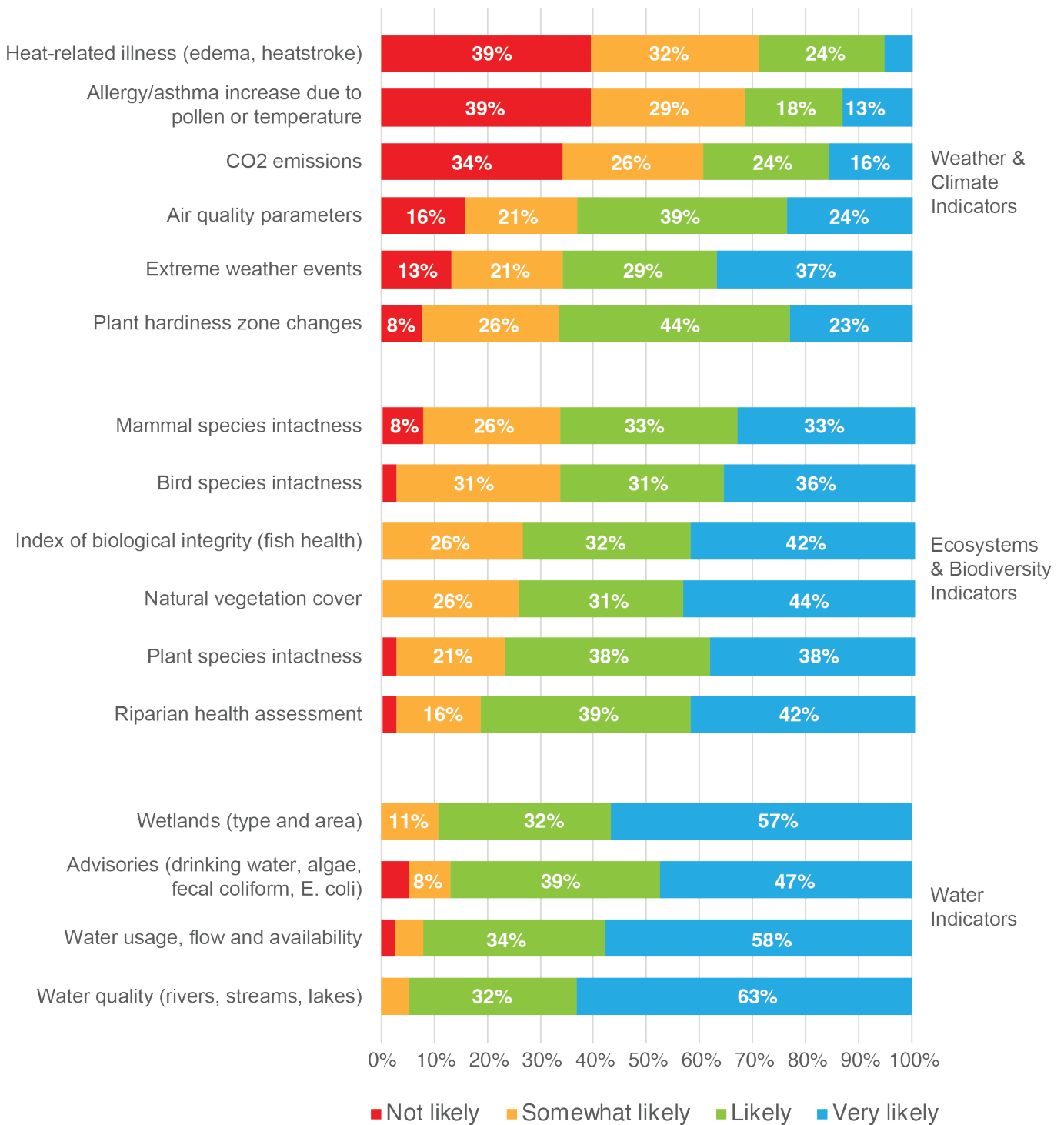


### 3.4 Post-summit Survey

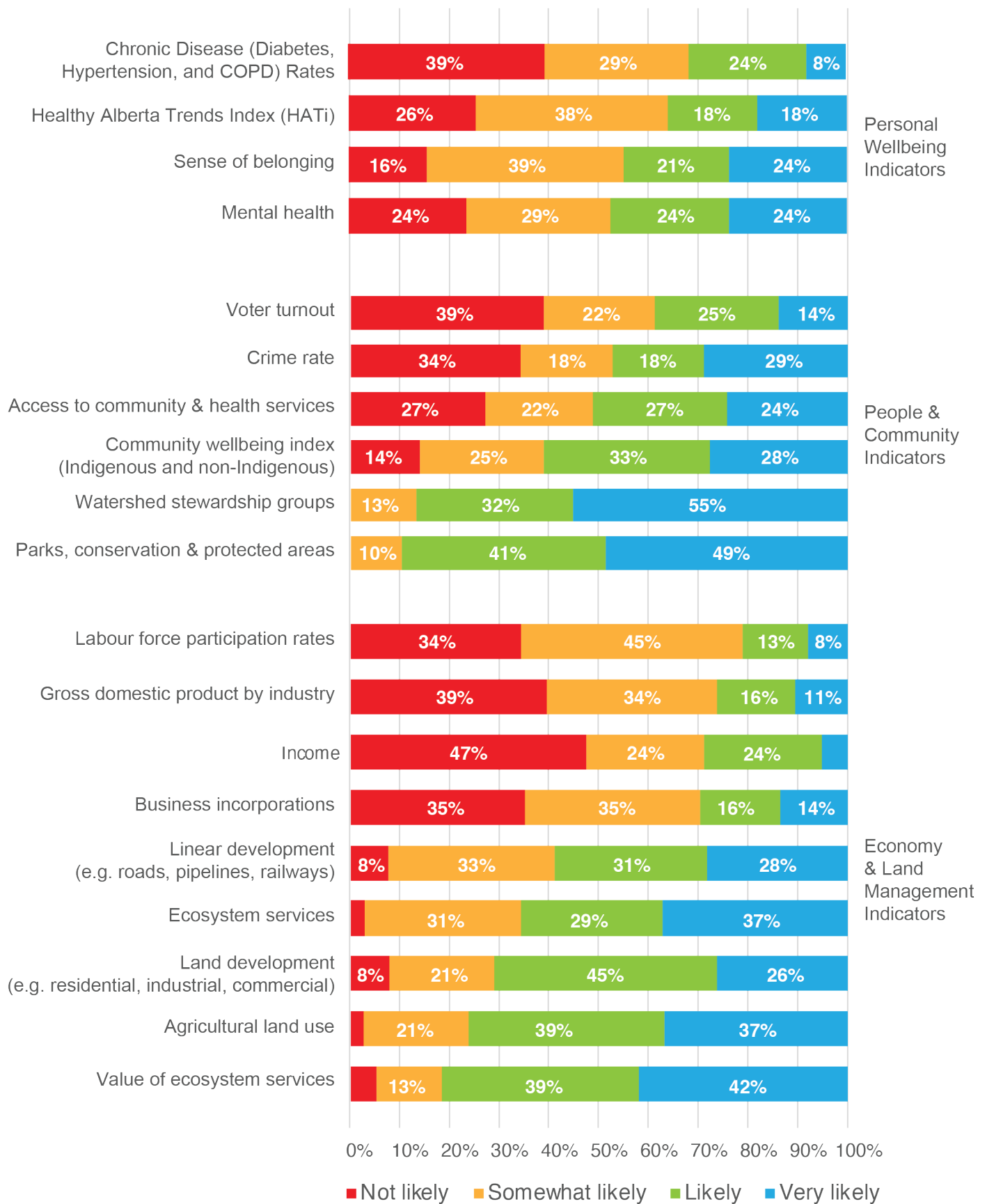
The post-summit survey was created to reach BRWA membership and a broader audience of interest holders. The survey looked to educate respondents about what data is available in the Health in the Watershed Atlas, and to identify how they see their role in advancing health in the watershed.

The following is a small selection of findings from the post-summit survey.

Please indicate how likely it would be for you to use the following data:



Please indicate how likely it would be for you to use the following data:

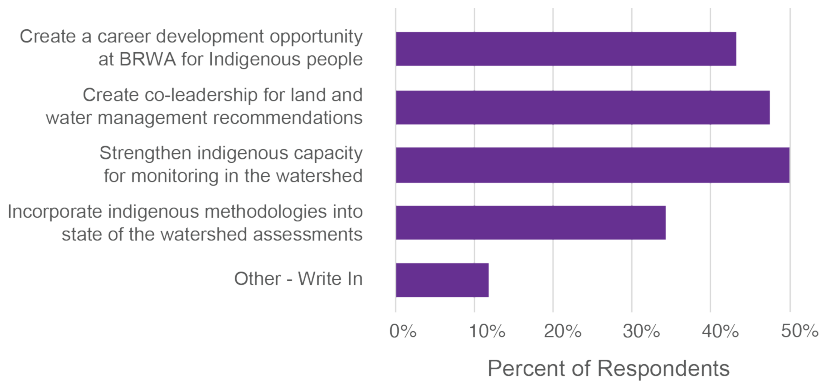




Identify the areas that reflect your personal or organizational capacity to take action.

Capacity to Take Action					
Action Type	Environment (water/land/ biodiversity)	Climate (adaptation/ mitigation)	Health (physical/ mental)	Social (community support)	Economy (development, employment)
Education/ Engagement	24	13	8	11	8
Policy/ Programs	18	8	5	5	6
Monitoring	24	7	7	6	6
Protecting Natural Spaces	23	8	9	10	5
Advocacy	23	14	11	14	8
Collaboration	23	16	11	17	9

### How can we incorporate Indigenous knowledge into watershed management?



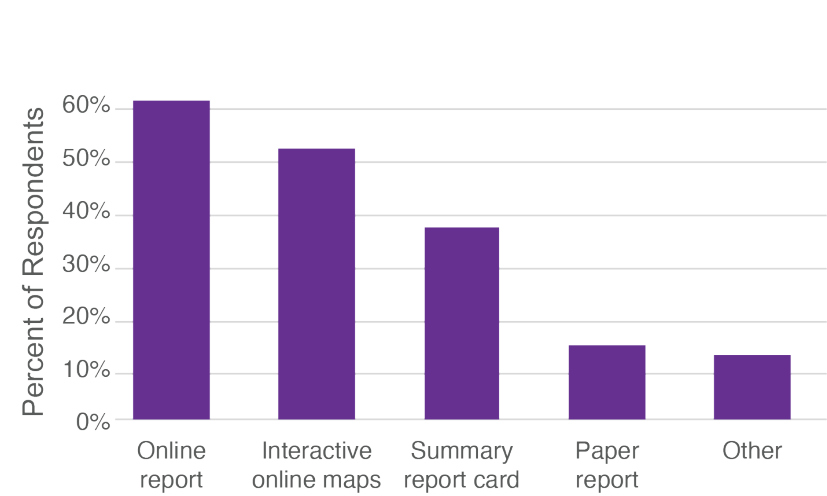
#### Additional actions highlighted to help improve health in the watershed

'Ceremony'

'Continue with workshops as we do on various topics such as saving native flora and fauna, planting prairie plots.'

'I don't have personal responsibility for the areas, but I could see a great role for Augustana and Augustana students to work on projects guided by the atlas, but also to help with potential monitoring work through CSL positions, etc.'

### What is your preferred format for future watershed health data reporting?



'Research and discussion of best in class watershed protection measures and engagement of concerned citizens. Then the public will come to their MLA's with educated ideas and concerns.'



A photograph showing two people in a riverbank. One person is standing in the water, wearing a red jacket and a white cap. The other person is standing on the bank, wearing a light blue shirt and a dark cap. They are surrounded by tall green grass and trees. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery.

## SECTION 4.0

# Next Steps

With the conclusion of the Health in the Watershed Engagement, BRWA will continue to provide programmatic, communications and educational opportunities for watershed interest holders and residents. Findings and relationships built during this Health in the Watershed process will continue to be strengthened through the Land and Water Committee, and in future State of the Watershed reporting and watershed management.

For more information on the Health in the Watershed Report, please visit BRWA's website.

Thank you to all who participated! We are grateful for your time and appreciate the energy you have put into reflecting and planning for the improvement of health in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.